

09/560,373

MS147248.01/MSFTP101US

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 28-33 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 7 and 28 have been amended to make explicit that which was previously implicit. Accordingly, the amendments made herein do not raise any new issues requiring search or undue effort by the Examiner, consequently entry and consideration thereof is respectfully requested. A version of all pending claims can be found at pages 2-6 of this Reply. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

**I. Rejection of Claims 1-22 and 28-33 Under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1-22 and 28-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons. Independent claims 1, 7 and 28 have been amended herein to make explicit that which was previously implicit. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite: reducing a business process to a *scheduling programming language written in XML*. Further, independent claim 7 has been amended to recite: a plurality of model components accessible through the user interface component, the plurality of model components allows a user to create a model of a business process and reduce the model *via the XML-based programming language*; and independent claim 28 has been amended to recite: means for distinguishing between synchronization of autonomous concurrent operations from interdependent concurrent operations, the autonomous concurrent operations and the interdependent concurrent operations are represented in *the scheduling programming language, the scheduling programming language based at least in part on XML*. The foregoing amendments made to the subject independent claims merely accentuate and make perspicuous to one of ordinary skill in the art that the claimed invention utilizes a "scheduling programming language written in XML (hereinafter referred to as SLANG)". See Specification, page 18, lines 17-21. Therefore, claims 1-22 and 28-33 are definite and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION


The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP101US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP

  
Jeffrey R. Sadlowski  
Reg. No. 47,914

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP  
24<sup>TH</sup> Floor, National City Center  
1900 E. 9<sup>TH</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
Telephone (216) 696-8730  
Facsimile (216) 696-8731